



# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **California State Parks Gets Kids Outdoors at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Beach Play Day!**

HUNTINGTON STATE BEACH – For some kids, living within a few miles of the ocean doesn't mean they can go to the beach. The fact is that for many California kids, getting outdoors for physical activity and recreation isn't that easy. That's why more than 700 inner-city youth between the ages of 8 and 17 from throughout California will be guests of California State Parks at "Beach Play Day." On Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 the huge beach event, complete with overnight camping, will begin at Huntington State Beach announced State Parks Director Ruth Coleman.

This is the eleventh annual "Beach Play Day" sponsored by California State Parks, State Parks Police Activities League (SPPAL), California Police Activities League representing law enforcement agencies around California, and personnel support from the California National Guard Drug Demand Reduction team. This collaborative team transforms the beach into a giant campground providing healthy living options and outdoor physical activity through beach related recreation at one of Southern California's most popular beaches. Kids have the opportunity to get outside to improve physical fitness and build self-esteem while having fun!

PAL youth experience outdoor recreation including body boarding, climbing walls, giant Slip N Slide, Hoop-A-Pa-Loo-Za, beach relay, and team building games. Teenagers will be offered the unique chance to ride all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on a sandy beach course. Surf rescue techniques and water safety will be demonstrated by State Parks lifeguards, including a helicopter rescue. Hoag Hospital's Project Wipeout will team with lifeguards for water safety instruction. Following an evening movie, many of the PAL youth will campout on the beach in

military field tents. State Parks personnel, police officers from statewide agencies, and volunteers oversee the event.

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“The Beach Play Day partnership provides an excellent opportunity for youth to develop lifelong interest in outdoor recreation, build self esteem, try new activities, and make healthy lifestyles choices. State Parks is happy to do its part in encouraging these young people,” said Coleman.

Police Activities Leagues are non-profit organizations that are associated with local police departments or sheriff offices. The PALs promote positive relationships between youth and peace officers, and uses recreation and educational activities to help youth become productive citizens and prevent juvenile crime.

Seen as a highlight of the year, “Beach Play Day” youth are selected to attend by their respective PALs for a variety of reasons including school attendance and positive behavior. For many this is their first beach experience. Currently there are more than 120 PAL organizations in California that are affiliated with the statewide organization, California PAL.

The State Parks Police Activities League (SPPAL), the first statewide PAL in the USA, is part of the non-profit, California State Parks Foundation. Its mission is to promote responsible citizenship in youth through outdoor recreation and educational experiences. SPPAL programs are made possible by the financial support of the Foundation’s members and donors.

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*Note to Assignment Editors: The event is at Huntington State Beach, between lifeguard stations 13 and 14 Enter from Beach Boulevard. Schedule of events is included.*